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DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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December 28, 2015

Michael George
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Subject: Review Comments to Division of Water Quality Renewal of Sector G of the Multi-sector General Permit (MSGP)

Dear Mr. George:

The following comments are submitted on behalf of the Minerals Regulatory Program of the Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining (the Division). The Division does not wish to infringe upon the Utah Division of Water Quality's authority to regulate surface water quality, but the Division has no regulatory standards for water quality and relies on DWQ for that purpose. With that in mind, the Division developed these comments to help both agencies cooperate in protecting surface waters in Utah potentially impacted by mining activity.

Comment 1: Fact Sheet Statement of Basis – Effluent Limitations: This section says "Effluent limitations included in the permit are for coal pile runoff (if applicable)." Coal mining is not in Group 3. This should be reworded to state the effluent requirements of the various industry sectors covered in Group 3.

Comment 2: Sector G, Part 1.a and .b – Coverage and limitations of coverage. Though this portion is likely taken from the federal language, the Division requests some clarification as to what is covered under the MSGP Sector G, what falls under the industrial wastewater discharge program, and whether a combined Stormwater/Wastewater discharge permit could be developed to address mining operations since these various areas are difficult, if not impossible, to segregate at a typical mine operation.

Comment 3: Sector G - Part 1.b. - Limitations on Coverage. The last sentence appears to create a circular reference to itself. Also see Limitations on Coverage, Part 1.b.

Comment 4: Sector G – Part 3.a. 3) a)(1) – Drainages. The Division recommends including perennial and ephemeral drainages and watershed boundaries.

Comment 5: Sector G – Part 3.b.3)g) – Management of Runoff (Page G-10). Are there any water rights issues related to the use of captured storm water for use in processing or irrigation?

Comment 6: Sector G - Part 4 – Numeric Effluent Limitations: “There are no additional numeric effluent limitations beyond those described in *Part IV.B* of this permit [coal pile runoff].” The Division questions the applicability of using coal pile runoff embedded in the MSGP for multiple industries unrelated to coal mining or coal-fired electricity generating facilities.

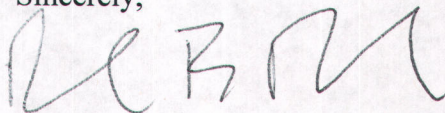
Comment 7: Sector G - Part 5.a. – Analytical Monitoring Requirements. It is unclear as to why copper operations are singled out throughout this part while no other types of metal mining are mentioned. This may be a partial extraction from the NPDES MSGP. The Division suggests that all metals mines be equally directed to meet effluent requirements.

Comment 8: Sector G - Part 5.a. – Analytical Monitoring Requirements. Table G-1 was extracted from the NPDES MSGP for benchmark monitoring. The Division believes that Tables 8.G-2 through G-4 in the NPDES MSGP should also be included to cover metal mining operations other than copper mines. (Table 8.G-2 addresses iron, copper, lead and zinc, gold and silver, ferroalloy [except vanadium], and miscellaneous metal ores; Table 8.G-3 discharges from waste rock and overburden piles for numerous types of metal mines; and Table 8.G-4 addresses numerous scenarios of applicability for various mining-related onsite areas.)

Comment 9: There are several grammatical/style errors that could be corrected to not create confusion for the applicant.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment and for your consideration of these issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'P. Baker', with a stylized, cursive flourish at the end.

Paul Baker
Minerals Program Manager